

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 were pending in the application. Claims 1-17 and 20-36 are hereby cancelled without prejudice to pursuing the cancelled claims in this or other continuing applications. Claims 18-19 correspond to then non-elected Group II in the Restriction Requirement dated February 13, 2001 (Paper No. 4) in Applicants prior Application No. 09/518,097, now issued U.S. Patent No. 6,489,308. Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 18-19 will be pending and under active consideration.

The specification has been amended to include cross reference to the parent application, U.S. Patent Application No. 10/427,929, filed May 2, 2003.

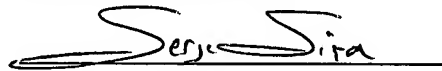
The amendment to the specification and claims is supported fully by the claims and/or specification as originally filed and, thus, does not represent new subject matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified amendments to the specification and claims be made prior to the examination of the above-referenced application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fees necessary to complete this filing and credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1710.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Serge Sira", is written over a horizontal line.

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